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WILLIAM WHITMAN BAILEY.

WALTER DEANE.

ONE by one our older botanists are leaving us and their places are being taken by the younger generation in their turn. We miss the familiar faces, the spoken and the written words, and the warm friends who have cheered and encouraged us in our pursuits. But we must rather rejoice than mourn when a life filled with much suffering in the midst of botanical activity has at last been ended and the body is at rest.

William Whitman Bailey died in Providence, Rhode Island, on February 20, 1914, within two days of 71 years of age. He was born at West Point, New York, on February 22, 1843, and was the son of Jacob Whitman Bailey of West Point and Maria Slaughter, daughter of Samuel Slaughter of Culpeper, Virginia, through whom he was connected with many prominent Virginians. He was descended from John Bayley, of Newbury and Salisbury, Massachusetts, who emigrated from Chippenham, England in 1635. His father was born in Ward, now Auburn, Massachusetts, in 1811, and was graduated at West Point in 1832 where, after serving for some years in the First Artillery, he became in 1838 Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology. There he remained till his death on February 26, 1857, a man in the very front of American science and a leader in microscopical research. Bailey's great grandfather on his mother's side was Colonel James Slaughter of Virginia who served in the Continental Army.

Young Bailey's early life was spent at West Point. He writes later, "My very earliest memories were associated with the military life at West Point. I never knew any other till I was fourteen years

of age. The daily routine of the Post was familiar to me, the reveille, guard mounting, hour calls, parade, gun fire, drills of all kinds, tattoo and taps. I was acquainted with the minutiae of the Academy, as a child would observe." This, with his short military service mentioned later, accounts for the intense military ardor that he always showed, and his deep love for West Point.

A terrible tragedy came into Bailey's life when he was but nine years of age and he never entirely recovered from its effects. On July 28, 1852, he embarked with his father, mother, and only sister, a young girl of sixteen, on board the *Henry Clay*, on the Hudson River, near West Point, for Long Island. The weather was bright and warm, and they had proceeded as far as Yonkers when the cry of "Fire!" was heard. Space forbids details. The fire was amidships. The steamer was beached near Yonkers and the passengers forward could escape, but the retreat of Prof. Bailey and his family was cut off. They all finally sprang into the water and in spite of every effort Mrs. Bailey and her daughter were drowned, Professor Bailey and his son were saved. From the shock there received young Bailey's life trembled in the balance for several years, and his whole life and nature were profoundly affected by the calamity. Long after he writes, "After the dread event and consequent shock I never regained my original tone." Indeed all the events of his future life were dominated by his weak constitution.

In February, 1857, but a few days before his father's death, he left West Point and went to Providence which was the residence of his uncle and where some of his ancestors had lived for several generations. He entered the University Grammar School and in 1860 became a freshman at Brown University in the same city. Having a profound distaste for mathematics and finding great difficulty with the subject he drifted into a special chemical course and left college with his class, but without a degree.

It was during his college career, in 1862, at the time of the Civil War that he enlisted as a private in the Tenth Regiment of Rhode Island Volunteers for three months. His health broke down under the exposure, and he returned to Providence before the regiment. From time to time after graduation Bailey visited, at Fredericton, New Brunswick, his brother, Professor Loring W. Bailey, who held the chair of Chemistry and Natural Science in the University of New Brunswick in that city, and on several occasions he assumed his

brother's duties, teaching Chemistry, Physiology, and Comparative Anatomy. In 1866 and 1867 he was assistant chemist in the Manchester Print Works, Manchester, New Hampshire, and in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Boston.

Up to this time Bailey did practically no botanical work. While in college he amused himself occasionally with the systematic analysis of simple plants. It was a mere amusement, botany not being taught at that time at Brown University. He says, "While in college and for some years after I regarded chemistry as my ultimate goal." In 1867 he heard of the United States Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel under Clarence King, and he was informed that a botanist was wanted. He immediately sought the position, and, on writing to Dr. Asa Gray, he received the amusing reply, "Mr. King desires a young man who shall at the same time be an accomplished botanist. As the two things are incompatible I think you'll do as well as another." Bailey accepted the position and from that time devoted himself to botany, never returning to chemistry. He started immediately for his new field of action. Here again he broke down and, in the spring of 1868, Dr. Sereno Watson took his place. In a letter to the writer he says, "I was with the party in Nevada about nine months when my health failed and I resigned. Still for a tyro my work was not so bad. Watson told me that he adopted my sketch of the phytographic regions in his report."

For several years after this he was engaged in various occupations, at one time assistant librarian at the Providence Athenaeum, and again teaching in private schools, and working in the herbarium of Columbia College, New York, with Dr. John Torrey. He also studied and did some teaching in the summer school of botany at Harvard College in 1875, 1876 and 1879, but his botanical career may be said to have begun in 1877 when he started a private class at Brown University. He writes later, "Botany was not taught at all in Brown till I myself introduced it in 1877." This was the first botanical class there, and it was a success. Bailey wrote later, "At the end of the season I was voted thirty dollars, and was tempted to go on by the title of instructor and the advanced pay of fifty dollars for the season of 1878." This was the beginning of a long course of botanical instruction, covering nearly thirty years, for he continued to teach there until his resignation in 1906. He became Professor of Botany in 1881. His college conferred upon him the degree of Ph.B. in 1873

and of A. M. in 1893. In 1900 he received the degree of LL. D. from the University of New Brunswick.

Professor Bailey devoted the best part of his life to botanical work in Brown University. During this period he confined himself to teaching and did not undertake any original scientific work. Vegetable morphology and systematic botany were the subjects to which he devoted himself mainly, and students who have since risen to an honorable position in the botanical world were among his pupils. He also conducted classes outside of his college work, lectured frequently in Providence and elsewhere and contributed articles, botanical and otherwise, to many papers, notably *The American Naturalist*, *Botanical Gazette*, *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, *New England Journal of Education*, *Providence Journal*, etc. Between 1881 and 1899 Professor Bailey published 'Botanical Collectors' Hand-book' (1881), 'Botanical Note-book' (1894-1897), 'Among Rhode Island Wild Flowers' (1895 and 1896), 'New England Wild Flowers' (1895), and 'Botanizing' (1899). His early experiences at West Point are vividly told in a brochure entitled 'My Boyhood at West Point,' published in 1891, and in a series of seventeen newspaper articles entitled 'Recollections of West Point,' published in 1900, by 'The News of the Highlands,' a local paper of the West Point region.

By nature Bailey had a fine artistic temperament, and the productions from his pen, pencil and brush were always the delight of his friends. Beautiful colored drawings, illustrating plant structure, insect pollination and the like, were used in his class work and his lectures. His poetic nature is shown in the many verses that he wrote both for publication and for his friends, and in 1909 he published a collection of the principal ones. He made staunch friends, and was an unremitting and brilliant correspondent, his letters teeming with wit and showing his wide knowledge of books. At class and society reunions Bailey was always expected to make a speech or read a poem, and these were full of pathos or wit as the occasion required. Yet through all this busy life he was a constant sufferer from spinal and other troubles, and the wonder is that he was enabled to carry on his work as he did.

He was ever fond of visiting West Point and many were the weeks that he spent there or in the immediate vicinity. He kept up his friendship with his early comrades and he wrote later, "My best friend, the only one admitted to my youthful *penetralia*, was Robert

E. Lee, Jr., son of the famous Confederate general, who, from 1852 to 1855, was superintendent on the Post." He had many warm friends among the members of the New England Botanical Club of which he was a non-resident member, and he attended a number of its meetings in the earlier years of its life before his physical troubles increased.

In 1906 Bailey's failing health compelled his resignation from his college work. He was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus, and during the remainder of his life he lived quietly at home, devoting much of his time to reading and writing. But his ever increasing physical troubles wore heavily upon him and at last, on February 20, 1914, he died. The funeral was held at the family home in Providence on February 23. At his own request his coffin was draped with the American flag, and the authorities at West Point allowed his body to be laid to rest in the Academy grounds near that of his father.

On March 14, 1881, Professor Bailey was married to Eliza Randall Simmons of Providence. She and two children, Whitman and Margaret Emerson, survive him.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

OPUNTIA VULGARIS ON CAPE COD.

F. S. COLLINS.

THE occurrence of *Opuntia vulgaris* Mill. at Nantucket has long been a matter of record; it is common there on the peninsula of Coatue. The earliest record appears to be by Hitchcock in 1833.¹ "Cactus *Opuntia*, Nantucket, T. A. Green. *Prickly Pear*." It does not appear in the first and second editions of Bigelow's *Florula*, but is mentioned in the third edition.² "Found at Nantucket, June, July."

In the first edition of Gray's *Manual*, 1848, p. 141, the distribution is given as "Sandy fields and dry rocks, Nantucket to N. J. and southward near the coast." Later editions have practically the same. In

¹ Edward Hitchcock, Report on the Geology, Mineralogy, Botany and Zoology of Massachusetts, p. 605.

² Jacob Bigelow, *Florula Bostoniensis*, third ed., 1840, p. 203.